



NEWS AND VIEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT....

You will read much about scoring and course rating in this month's newsletter. Two USGA Course Rating Seminars will be held in Missouri this year, one in Jefferson City on March 30 sponsored by Missouri Golf Assn. and one in Kansas City on March 29 sponsored by Kansas City Golf Association. I would like to encourage you to consider this volunteer effort to rate golf courses for women throughout the state. We have some wonderful course raters but are always in need of more and in more locations around the state. We especially need raters in southeast Missouri and northwest Missouri. Get some friends together and attend one of these seminars. Beth Parmley, MWGA's Course Rating Director will welcome you with open arms. Go to our website and click on the link for on-line registration to the seminar in Jefferson City. Contact the KCGA for the seminar in KC.

One of the most important functions of the USGA Handicap System is the accurate and timely posting of scores. This handicap system levels the playing field for all of us. Golf is an individual sport, golfer against the course. But we all like to compete and if used correctly the handicap system works. The posting requirements set by the USGA is as follows: if you've completed less than 7 holes you can't post the score; if you've completed 7-12 holes you must post the ESC (Equitable Stroke Control) score as a 9-hole score; if you've completed 13-18 holes you must post the ESC score as an 18 hole score. Both match and stroke play scores must be posted. In a match play situation the individual hole score should be the one you most likely would have made, not the maximum ESC score for the hole.

Please post all scores and monitor those at your club to maintain the integrity of the USGA handicap system.

I would encourage all of you to log on to www.mowomensga.org to obtain information about your association. We will continue to communicate with you by mail but the most current information about our association can be found on our website. In addition, if you wish to receive information via e-mail send your e-mail address to Carel Reynolds, MWGA Executive Secretary at MWGAEXECSEC@aol.com.

*See you at the Senior.
Carol Amling, President*

2006 MWGA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MWGA SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP *

May 15, 16, 17, 2006

Persimmon Woods Golf Club, Weldon Spring, MO

MWGA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP *

June 7, 8, 9, 2006

A. L. Gustin Golf Course, Columbia, MO

MWGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP *

July 9, 10, 11, 12, 2006

The Club at Porto Cima, Lake Ozark, MO

FORE STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

August 12 -14, 2006

Tulsa Country Club, Tulsa, OK

MWGA TWO LADY SCRAMBLE

September 18, 19, 20, 2006

Old Kinderhook Country Club, Camdenton, MO

(See page 2 for 2007 tournament schedule)

* = Entry Form Enclosed

HOW ARE COURSE RATING AND SLOPE RATING DETERMINED AND WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Course rating and slope rating are calculated for a course on the basis of a visit to the course by a USGA rating team. Based on the information gleaned during the visit(s), the course rating and course slope will be calculated, certified by the appropriate overseeing golf associations and given to the club, which then posts the ratings on its scorecard and elsewhere. Course rating used to be based almost solely on length. (The longer the course, the higher the rating.) Distance and obstacles now come into play. The rating team will go over the course with an eye to how both scratch golfers and bogey golfers will play it. A female scratch golfer is defined by the USGA as a golfer who hits her drives 210 yards and can reach a 400-yard hole in two (and, of course, plays to scratch).

A bogey female golfer is defined by the USGA as a golfer with a handicap index of 21.5 to 26.4, who hits her drives 150 yards and can reach a 280-yard hole in two.

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MWGA SCHOLARSHIPS

MWGA offers scholarships to graduating seniors from Missouri or Johnson County, Kansas. Applications can be downloaded from our website www.mowomensga.org. All scholarship applications must be received by Friday, June 2, 2006. If you know any senior girls that may be interested, encourage them to apply. If you have any questions concerning this scholarship, call Peggy Nail, MWGA Scholarship Director, at (913)631-6012 after April 15, 2006.

COURSE AND SLOPE RATING... (continued)

So, for instance, on a 400-yard hole, the team will go 150 yards down the fairway to analyze the landing area for a bogey golfer; and 210 yards down the fairway to analyze the landing area for a scratch golfer. What obstacles were encountered along the way? What is the state of the fairway at each spot for each golfer? What angle is left to the green? How far is the approach shot for each? What is the height and reach of trees? And so on. Taking into account length and obstacles, and experience gleaned from playing the course, the rating team will evaluate the overall difficulty of the course under normal playing conditions and issue the **course rating** for scratch golfers.

Likewise, they will issue the bogey rating for bogey golfers. The bogey rating is then used to calculate **slope**, which, remember, is a number representing the relative difficulty of a course for bogey golfers compared to scratch golfers. The calculation that determines slope is this: bogey course rating minus USGA course rating x 4.24 for women.

The "effective playing length" and "obstacle stroke value" are the determining factors in course rating and bogey rating. Effective playing length is exactly that - not the actual yardage on a hole or a shot, but how it actually plays.

Is there a downslope that will add yards? An upslope? Is the course at altitude, which will produce more length? What's the height of the fairway grass, which will affect roll? Are there forced lay-ups?

Obstacle stroke value is a numerical rating of the difficulty presented by obstacles on the course. The course is rated in 10 categories: topography; easy or difficulty of hitting the fairway; probability of hitting the green from the fairway landing area; difficulty of bunkers and probability of hitting into them; probability of hitting out of bounds; how much water will come into play; how trees affect play; speed and contouring of the greens; and the psychological effect of all these things.

The rating team will look at all these things for both scratch golfers and bogey golfers, and from every set of tees. And then follow the USGA's four formulas (male scratch golfer, female scratch golfer, male bogey golfer, female bogey golfer), some adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, and produce its numbers - detailed factors to consider before a state, regional or local golf association provides certified ratings to a club. There is little guesswork involved; the process is objective and complete, with rating calibration seminars held around the country on a regular basis.

FROM THE RULES DIRECTOR

The USGA has this year allowed committees, by local rule, to allow distance-measuring devices in tournaments...(Decision 14-3/0.5) The MWGA Board will discuss this issue at our board meeting in April and decide if we will allow them in our tournaments this year. If you are considering a purchase, the **ONLY** allowable devices, if allowed, will be those that measure distance only. If the device measures wind or gradient, i.e. slope or elevation, it will not be allowed. Penalty for breach of this local rule is disqualification.

Cissy LeGear, Rules Director

MWGEA DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their contributions to the Missouri Women's Golf Education Association, Inc.

We appreciate their thoughtfulness.

**Ladies at Twin Pines Country Club
Virginia Sapp in memory of Jeanne Hanks
USGA Publinx**



2007 MWGA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MWGA SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

May 21-23 - Point Royale Country Club, Branson, MO

MWGA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

June 6-8 - A. L. Gustin Golf Course, Columbia, MO

MWGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

July 9-12 - Meadowbrook Country Club, Ballwin, MO

MWGA TWO LADY SCRAMBLE

Sept. 16-18 - Winterstone Golf Course, Independence, MO



Missouri Women's Golf Association Membership Application

Year: 2006

Status: New Member Renewal Member Membership: Regular Senior (50 and Over)

Miss/Ms./Mrs.: _____
Last First Husband

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Office Phone: (____) _____

Club: _____ Signature _____

Please complete the entire application. Please do not send cash. Make check payable to MWGA. Give to your club representative or mail to the MWGA Officer/Director listed to the right.

Membership Fee: \$25.00
Send to: Mrs. Ronnie Burg
3529 Post Valley Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368



Missouri Women's Golf Association **JUNIOR** Membership Application

Year: 2006

Name: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____
Last First

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Date of Birth: _____

High School: _____ Coach: _____

Address: _____

Year of Graduation: _____ Signature _____

Please complete the entire application. Please do not send cash. Make check payable to MWGA. Give to your club representative or mail to the MWGA Officer/Director listed to the right.

Membership Fee: \$10
Send to: Mrs. Ronnie Burg
3529 Post Valley Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368



Missouri Women's Golf Association **CLUB** Membership Application

Year: 2006

Status: Private Semi Private Public
 Resort Military 9 Hole 18 Hole

Club Name _____ Address _____

President _____ Manager _____

Golf Professional _____ Phone (____) _____

If you have e-mail/website, please provide _____

If you have a Course Rating/Slope for women, please provide CR _____ Slope _____
(We provide this service to our membership, otherwise there is a \$100 fee for non-members.)

MWGA Club Representative **OR** Ladies Association/League Chairperson

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Would you periodically host a tournament? _____

Membership Fee: \$50.00
Send to: Mrs. Ronnie Burg
3529 Post Valley Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63368

MISSOURI WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION
MRS. CAREL REYNOLDS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
12962 BRIAR FORK ROAD
DES PERES, MO 63131

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 1090
O'FALLON, MO 63366

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Is your MWGA
membership current?
The date next to your name
on the label indicates the
last year you joined.

MORE FROM THE RULES DIRECTOR

Here is a revised rule when playing under the lost ball rule...revised decision: 27-1/2: A player plays his 2nd shot, searches for his ball and then goes back and drops another ball under rule 27-1. Before she plays the dropped ball, and within the 5 minute search period, the original ball is found: the player is required **to continue play with the substituted ball since she proceeded under an applicable rule.**

Before this year, the player could abandon the dropped ball if she had not made a stroke at it. Now, as soon as she drops a ball and is proceeding under rule 27-1, it becomes the ball in play.

Also note: When **announcing a provisional ball**, player must announce she is playing a provisional. Stating things like "that might be out of here, or that might be lost, I am going to re-load, or I'd better hit another one" **do not satisfy the requirement of announcing a provisional ball.**

Cissy LeGear, Rules Director

MWGA . . . MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

Former Mt. Vernon High School standout and Drury Women's Golf Team member, Tonya Choate is having a great year! Fighting swirling winds up to 40 miles per hour, Tonya scored 82-71-77-82 to tie for 12th place with Carol Semple Thompson at the South Atlantic Ladies Amateur (Sally) in January at Oceanside Country Club in Ormond Beach, Fla. Two time Curtis Cup team member and former U.S. Mid Amateur Champion, Virginia Derby Grimes was able to grind out the victory against a stellar field. Chelsea Schriewer of the University of Missouri Golf Team placed 16th in the competition. How fortunate we are to have these two great players competing so well from our state. It looks like the 2006 Missouri Women's Amateur will be exciting!

Karen Johnson, MWGA Publicity Director